

Corruption Charges Against Temer Move to Brazil's Lower House



Brasilia, June 30 (RHC)-- The corruption charges against Brazilian President Michel Temer have been delivered to the Lower House of Congress, moving the process towards the final stages before lawmakers vote on whether he should be tried and removed from office.

The request for charges will be considered first by the House Constitution and Justice Committee, before going to a vote in the full House, probably at the end of July.

If a total of 341 out of the 513 lawmakers vote in favor, the Supreme Court will open a trial. In that case, Temer would be suspended for up to 180 days while awaiting a verdict.

The Attorney General Rodrigo Janot made his request for the charges to be brought against Temer earlier this week and it was delivered to Brazil's Supreme Court of Justice on Wednesday.

Janot formally accused Temer and his aide Rodrigo Rocha Loures of receiving and approving bribes in the largest corruption investigation in the country known as Operation Car Wash.

On Wednesday, it was announced that Temer has chosen Raquel Dodge as the next Attorney General to replace Janot, who is due to step down in September.

Reports allege Temer chose Dodge -- who has opposed Janot in the past and is far more sympathetic to his allies in congress -- in an attempt to gain the necessary votes to avoid a corruption trial.

Meanwhile, Carlos Fernando dos Santos Lima, a prosecutor examining allegations of bribery between the government and large companies, said the necessary resources have not been allocated to probe the cases.

On June 27 the federal police temporarily suspended the delivery passports due to budgetary restrictions therefore preventing officers from being able to travel to carry out their investigations.

"The Government of Temer drowns the Federal Police, there is no money for the issuance of a document as necessary as the passport, imagine how the continuity of the various investigations in the country are," Dos Santos Lima said on a post on his Facebook profile.

Last week the police presented an investigation against Temer and alleged they had strong evidence that the president had received and approved bribes.

The political scandal has also affected Temer's party, the Brazilian Democratic Movement Party. Renan Calheiros, leader of the party in the Senate resigned on Wednesday.

Calheiros criticized two reforms proposed by Temer to change the pension and labor laws in the country which focus on austerity measures.

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